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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/661,390	09/12/2003	Jeffrey George	60518-175	8430

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THE PINEHURST OFFICE CENTER, SUITE #101  
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BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304-5151

EXAMINER
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SARKHILI, SARA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3714

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/03/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/661,390

Applicant(s)

GEORGE ET AL.

Examiner

Sara Sarkhili

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3. Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date : 1/16/2004, 5/20/2005, 11/30/2005, 3/25/2007.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

**Claims 1, 6-27 and 31-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hogan (U.S. 6267671).**

As to Claim 1, Hogan'671 discloses:

a remote gaming system (Col.2 Lines 1-3) and also a player tracking system (Col.9 Lines 45-50). Hogan also discloses a network interface system (Fig.5). Furthermore, Hogan discloses a voucher system for the players that includes both product and service (Col.1 Lines 12-23).

As to Claims 6-7 and 20-25, Hogan'671 discloses:

A process connected to the remote game device that enables the user to access the system and obtain his/her information, which is similar to a web access with the same utilities. The processor requires a card input from the player to log in to the system and

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in exchange presents the data to the user (Col.15 Lines 47-61). It also discloses a plurality of servers for providing functionality to the user (Fig 5, and Col.9 Lines 17-34).

As to Claims 8-10, Hogan'671 discloses:

A request from the player via a club card that makes the remote device to communicate with a remote game machine and gives back data to the user. The data includes a personal ID number as well (Col. 1 Line 64 – Col. 2 Line 23). Hogan further discloses a process connected to the remote game device that enables the user to access the system and obtain his/her information, which is similar to a web access with the same utilities. The processor requires a card input from the player and in exchange presents the data to the user (Col.15 Lines 47-61).

As to Claims 11-12, Hogan'671 discloses:

A system that enables the player to enter a voucher via a remote network where the system identifies the user upon the submission of the voucher or "comp" (as explained by Hogan) (Col.1 Lines 35-63).

As to Claims 13-14, Hogan'671 discloses:

A database that tracks the player through a main computer where any computer connected to the network, can access the data from the host computer (Abstract).

As to Claims 15-18, Hogan'671 discloses:

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A system database, a marketing database and a player's database for processing several kinds of data, formatting and responding the data to the user (Col.9 Lines 35-60).

As to Claim 19, Hogan'671 discloses:

A process connected to the remote game device that enables the user to access the system and obtain his/her information, which is similar to a web access with the same utilities. The processor requires a card input from the player and in exchange presents the data to the user (Col.15 Lines 47-61).

As to Claims 26 and 31-35, Hogan'671 discloses:

A comp or voucher report which is deliverable and includes player's information. This is mostly for tracking the player, and it includes both service and product. This whole system is provided in a network system, which enables the player to connect to a remote hosting computer to retrieve the data (Col.15 line 61 – Col. 16 Line 21)

As to Claims 36-39, 43 and 49, Hogan'671 discloses:

A method that includes assigning an ID number to the player, storing that data, a system that can track that data via a database using an ID card(Col. 13 Line 50 – Col. 14 Line 40).

As to Claims 40-42, Hogan'671 discloses:

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A system database, a marketing database and a player's database for processing several kinds of data, formatting and responding the data to the user (Col.9-Lines 35-60).

As to Claim 44, Hogan'671 discloses:

a process connected to the remote game device that enables the user to access the system and obtain his/her information, which is similar to a web access with the same utilities. The processor requires a card input from the player and in exchange presents the data to the user (Col.15 Lines 47-61). Hogan, also discloses a wide variety of screen display formats which can be used for the responsive data (Col. 10 Lines 44-50).

As to Claim 46, Hogan'671 discloses:

A method for identifying the player through a player ID card, which can be considered as a login mean (Col.4 Lines 20-30).

As to Claim 47-48, Hogan'671 discloses:

A menu display available to the user for navigating and choosing the option he/she is looking for (Col. 14 Lines 25-40).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 2-5 and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hogan'671.**

Hogan'671 teaches all the elements in Claims 2-5 and 28-30 except that it does not expressly disclose a wireless connection and consequently use of IEEE 802.11b and g.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use a wireless connection and consequently IEEE 802.11b and g in the network, because Applicant has not disclosed that using the wireless communication provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Hogan'671 network, and applicant's invention, to perform equally well with either the current network taught by Hogan'671 or the claimed wireless connection because both networks would perform the same function of communicating the data between the host computer and the player's computer equally well.

Therefore, it would have been prima facie obvious to modify Hogan'671 to obtain the invention as specified in claims 2-5 and 28-30 because such a modification would have been considered a mere design consideration which fails to patentably distinguish over the prior art of Hogan'671.



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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sara Sarkhili whose telephone number is 571-272-2831. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571)272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SS

*Ronald Hansen*  
Primary Examiner  
3/30/07